(a) whether in-flight service and quality of food in Air India are very bad; and

(b) whether people are more attracted to private airlines due to such a condition in Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Average rainfall in North-Eastern Region

*314. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the average rainfall in the country and in the North-Eastern Region during 2007-08 and 2008-09 so far;

(b) the names of the States where rainfall is above that average;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment on the percentage of rainwater consumed by the plants and animals during 2007-08;

(d) if so, the percentage thereof;

(e) whether Government is contemplating any plan restrict rain water going waste; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) For the year 2007, the average rainfall for India has been assessed by India Meteorological Department as 1180.7 millimeter (mm) and that for the Northeastern (NE) region as 2438.8 mm. For the year 2008 (up to 10th December 2008), the average annual rainfall for the country and the for NE region has been assessed as 1110.8 mm and 2096.3 mm respectively.

(b) List of the States where the rainfall during the years 2007 and 2008 has been found to be more than the average rainfall for the country is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) No assessment has been made in respect of percentage of rain water consumed by plants and animals.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Various measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which *Inter alia* include measures for conservation of rainwater through creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to groundwater etc. Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture and scheme on artificial recharge to ground water through dug wells in hard rock areas etc. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to groundwater.

Statement

States where the observed rainfall is more than the average rainfall for the country for the year 2007 and 2008 respectively.

Year 2007

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Chhattisgarh
5. Goa
6. Jharkhand
7. Karnataka
8. Kerala
9. Maharashtra
10. Manipur
11. Meghalaya
12. Mizoram
13. Nagaland
14. Orissa
15. Sikkim
16. Tripura
17. Uttarakhand
18. West Bengal

Year 2008 (up to 10th Dec; 2008)

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Chhattisgarh
5. Goa
6. Jharkhand
7. Karnataka
8. Kerala
9. Manipur
10. Meghalaya
11. Mizoram
12. Nagaland
13. Orissa
14. Sikkim
15. Tamil Nadu
16. Tripura
17. Uttarakhand
18. West Bengal

Petrochemical project in Vizag

*315. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether companies were now doing a pre-feasibility study for a project of 14-15 million tonnes refinery and petrochemical project in Vizag in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the employment to be created for the local people and their participation in such projects; and

(d) the assistance of his Ministry to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard?